I. RURAL

Apart from the general conditions the following guidelines have to be followed in respect of rural STD PCO operation. The rural STD PCO is defined for this purpose as one working in an exchange system which has a total capacity of 512 lines and less:

1. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month in the case of rural STD PCOs is fixed as R. 100.

2. A security deposit of Rs. 600 based on six months guarantee revenue or monthly average whichever is higher has to be deposited by the allottee of the STD rural PCO. This average revenue is calculated on the basis of the revenue of the previous six months.

3. Weekly billing cycle would be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges.

III. NON-RURAL (URBAN)

Apart from the general conditions mentioned above, the guidelines detailed below have to be followed in respect of the STD PCOs scheme in Non-rural (Urban) areas:

1. Atleast one STD PCO may be made available for about every 100 dwelling/ Business Premises.

2. *STD PCO Location*

While selecting the location for allotment of PCO, the SSA Head will consult the local bodies like Municipality, Public Institutions etc. to allocate convenient places for the PCO Booths. The important places given below should invariably be covered while selecting the location of PCO booths:

— Commercial Housing Societies
— Resettlement Colonies
— Government Colonies
— Family Quarters of Defence Personnel
— Students hostels
— Bus Stands
— Tourist Centres
— Airports
— Pilgrim Centres
— Railway Stations
— Charitable Institutions
— Hospitals
— Educational Institutions, Public Libraries etc.

4. A minimum guaranteed revenue per PCO per month to the Department in the case of Non-rural (Urban) STD PCOs is fixed as R. 1600.

5. The amount of security deposit will be Rs. 5000 or an amount equal to the average monthly revenue whichever is higher. The average monthly revenue will be calculated on the basis of previous six months revenue.

6. Fortnightly billing cycle will be followed for recovery of STD PCO charges. If the charges are heavy, weekly billing may be resorted to by local telecom authority.

Receipt of this order may be acknowledged.

Sd/-

(K. V. KRISHNAMURTHY)

Asstt. Director General (PHB)

Lowering the Price of Switching Exchange

1865. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Department of Telecom have reduced the maximum permissible price of switching exchanges to Rs. 4600 per line;

(b) if so, what is the manner in which lower costs of each line will be helpful to the consumer or phone subscriber; and

(c) what are the details of the benefits which are being passed on to the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Does not arise in view of (a) above.

Special Pay to Assistant Engineers of Telecom

1866. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total sanctioned strength of Assistant Engineers of Telecom Circle of Uttar Pradesh as on date;

(b) whether all of them are entitled to get special pay; and

(c) if not, what are the reasons for discrimination in the same category of officers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) 593 (Five hundred ninety three).

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Only officers performing the duties of higher responsibilities and of specially arduous nature are granted special pay.

Review of Indian Post Office Act, 1898

1867. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal under consideration of Government to review Indian Post Office Act, 1898; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) Need for changes in the Act has arisen in the context of emerging trends in communication by mail in the country and other socio-economic factors. A Committee was set up by the Government for this purpose and the report of the Committee has been received by the Government.

Time taken by Government to make telephone operational after Installation

1868. SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:
SHRI N.E. BALARAM:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the time being taken by Government to make the telephone operational after installing the instrument for a new connection;

(b) whether Government are aware that in most of the cases it takes days and weeks together to make the telephone operational;

(c) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a news item under "Aisa Bhi Hota Hai" published in "Nav Bharat Times" of 1st July, 1993; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken by Government in this connection?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) and (b) Sir, When a large number of connections are released due to an expansion of an exchange, to avoid delay, advance action is taken to fit the Subscribers instruments and keep them tested in anticipation of the commissioning of the exchange. It is possible that in such cases, depending upon the number of lines being released, there is delay between the fitting of the instrument and its energisation. However, the Subscribers are always advised about the likely delay in the commissioning of the exchange.

(c) and (d) No Sir. The New Delhi edition of Nav Bharat Times of 1-7-93 does not contain a news item on telephone service under such a heading.

Large switches to be supplied by Multinational Companies

1869. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Telecommunication department has shortlisted a few multinationals for supplying large switches; and

(b) if so, what are the names of these companies and details of the orders to be placed with each of these five companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) As per bid issued by DOT a few suppliers registered for manufacture of switching equipment in India and who had obtained clearance from the RBI and validated their systems have been considered for supply of more than 5 lakhs lines of switching equipment.

(b) In the above mentioned tender which was open to the Indian registered companies for supply of digital local telephone exchanges few companies, viz., M/s Sei-